

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating with a mobile station by way of a forward channel in a wireless communication system, the method comprising:
receiving a message capsule over the forward channel;
calculating a signature from the message capsule at the mobile station; and
comparing the signature with one or more signatures previously stored at the mobile station.

65-81. (Cancelled)

82. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for communicating with a mobile station by way of a forward channel in a wireless communication system, comprising:
a base station configured to:
transmit a message capsule over the forward channel;
generate a signature for the message capsule, the signature being generated by hashing the message capsule, wherein the hashing comprises hashing the message capsule to generate a first hash and rehashing the message capsule if the first hash of the message matches a signature of a previous message capsule; and
transmit a signature in a separate signature capsule over the forward channel.

83. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the rehashing comprises adding a random value to the first hash.

84. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the rehashing is done if the signature of a previous message capsule was generated within a time period T_{Δ} .

85. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein the time period T_{Delta} is larger than the largest allowed sleep time of any mobile station that could be communicated with the wireless communication system.

86. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the hashing is arranged to generate a sixteen bit value for the signature.

87. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the hashing is arranged to generate a thirty-two bit value for the signature.

88. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method as claimed in claim ~~65~~ 64, further comprising assigning a value stored in a counter to the signature.

89. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method as claimed in claim 88, wherein the counter is incremented after a signature is generated.

90. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method as claimed in claim 88, wherein the counter is incremented if the message capsule is different than a previously transmitted message capsule.

91. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method as claimed in claim ~~65~~ 64, wherein the message comprises an overhead message indicative of base station parameters in the wireless communication system.

92. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method as claimed in claim 91, wherein the base station parameters include system parameters, access parameters, channel list, and neighbor list parameters.

93. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method as claimed in claim ~~65~~ 64, wherein the message comprises an overhead message indicative of system-wide parameters of the wireless communication system.

94. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method as claimed in claim 93, wherein the system wide parameters include system parameters, access parameters, channel list, and neighbor list parameters.

95-132. (Cancelled)